

CHURCH OF THE RUINED MONASTERY AT DAOU-MENDELI, ATTICA.

(PLATES XIV.-XVII.)

So little of this picturesque and interesting Byzantine church and monastery unfortunately is left standing that the measured drawings and photographs reproduced on Plates XIV.—XVII. will perhaps serve as the best form of description. Mr. Hasluck and I made a careful survey of the church and the scanty remains of the monastic buildings in March, 1902, putting up for a week at a farmhouse about four miles distant.

The planning of the central part of the church at the ground level carried up as a hexagon and domed with a twelve-sided cupola is very interesting and somewhat unusual for this type of church. An hexagonal plan of somewhat similar character is shown in Fig. 1, a drawing from a Cairene Mosque made by Mr. E. F. Reynolds, Student of the School in 1902-3. The arrangement of the apse internally is very effective, though, on account of the slope of the ground, which rises considerably at this end of the church, we were unable to determine the external treatment. The gallery and first floor are approached on the west side from a room over what appears to have been the monks' cells, and this seems to have been the only means of access to it, as no evidence of a staircase leading to the upper floor exists in the church at all. Fig. 2 gives an elevation and section of the screen.

The outer narthex is of course a later addition to the church, the exact date of which it is difficult to determine; it is quite reasonable however to suppose that this narthex was added early in the seventeenth century, as the

arch of the central doorway has very similar detail to the archway at the entrance to the monastic precincts on the west side, which bears a date 16 . . (?). It contains rooms for the monks or private chapels on the gallery floor level and a large room over, approached from the roof of the church; and to make this room more easy of access the south-west cupola was removed. The remains besides the church are in a very

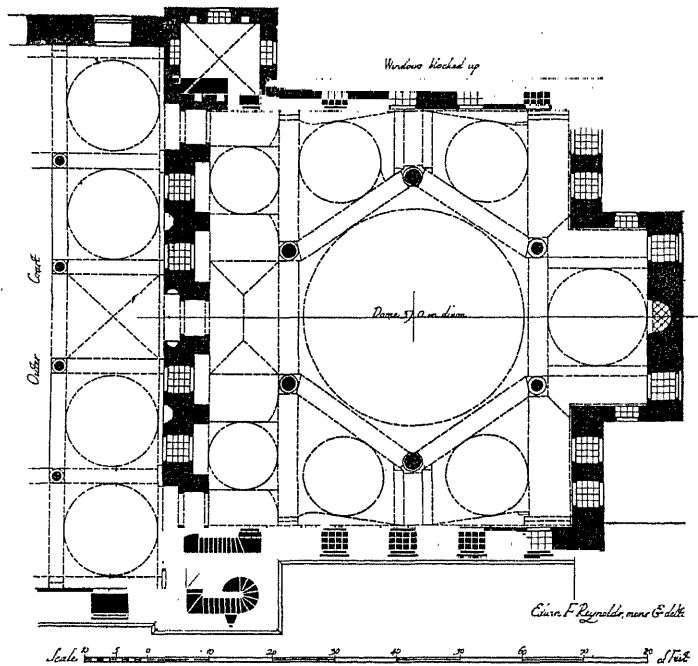


FIG. 1.—PLAN OF A MOSQUE IN CAIRO: MEASURED AND DRAWN BY E. F. REYNOLDS.

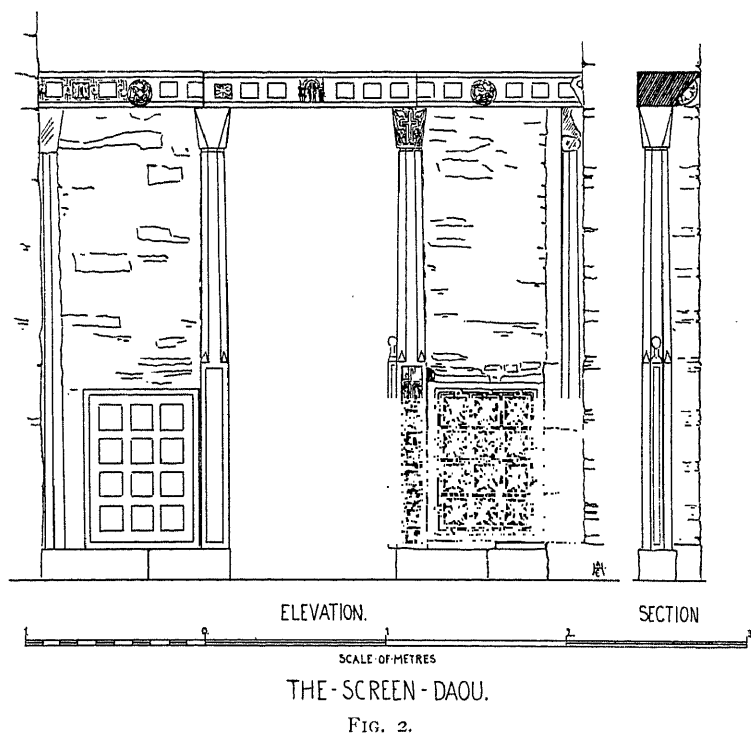
dilapidated condition. A tower at the entrance on the west side looks as if some attempt at fortification had been made; very probably pirates had from time to time made raids on the monastery, and, as the story goes, were the ultimate cause of its demolition.

The remains of what appears to be a refectory exist in the south-east corner of the enclosure, but it is very much overgrown with grass and in parts hardly appears above the ground level.

The church is built in a very rough kind of rubble with large stones as quoins, and was undoubtedly stuccoed externally; the central cupola

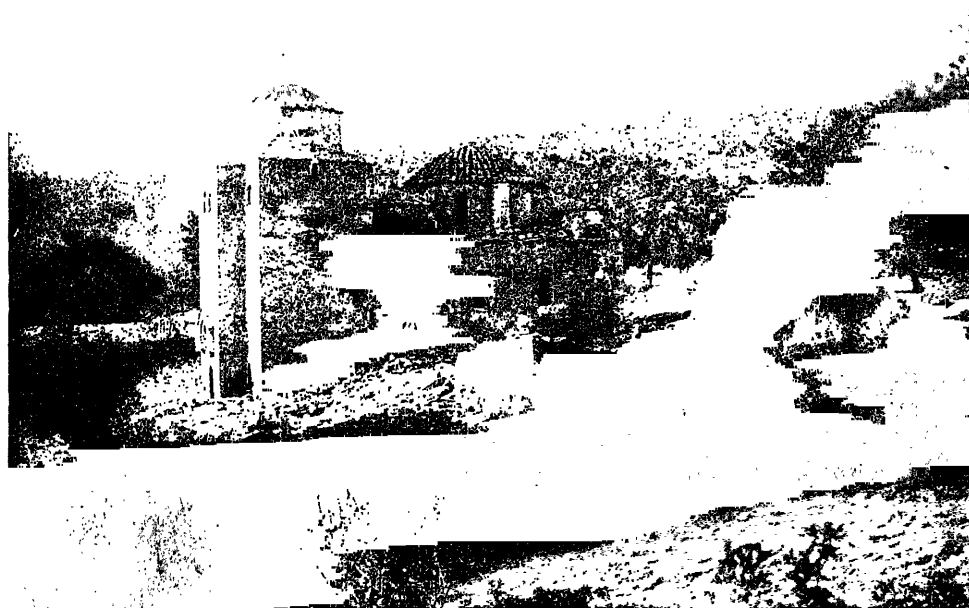
however is built in ashlar with pantiles as roof covering, large stone slabs forming the roofing material of the smaller cupolas.

It is a matter of great regret that no internal plaster work or mosaic remains, such as form one of the most interesting features of Byzantine churches, but enough is left standing to make it evident that at one time it must have been one of the most beautiful of the little conventual establishments in which Greece abounds.



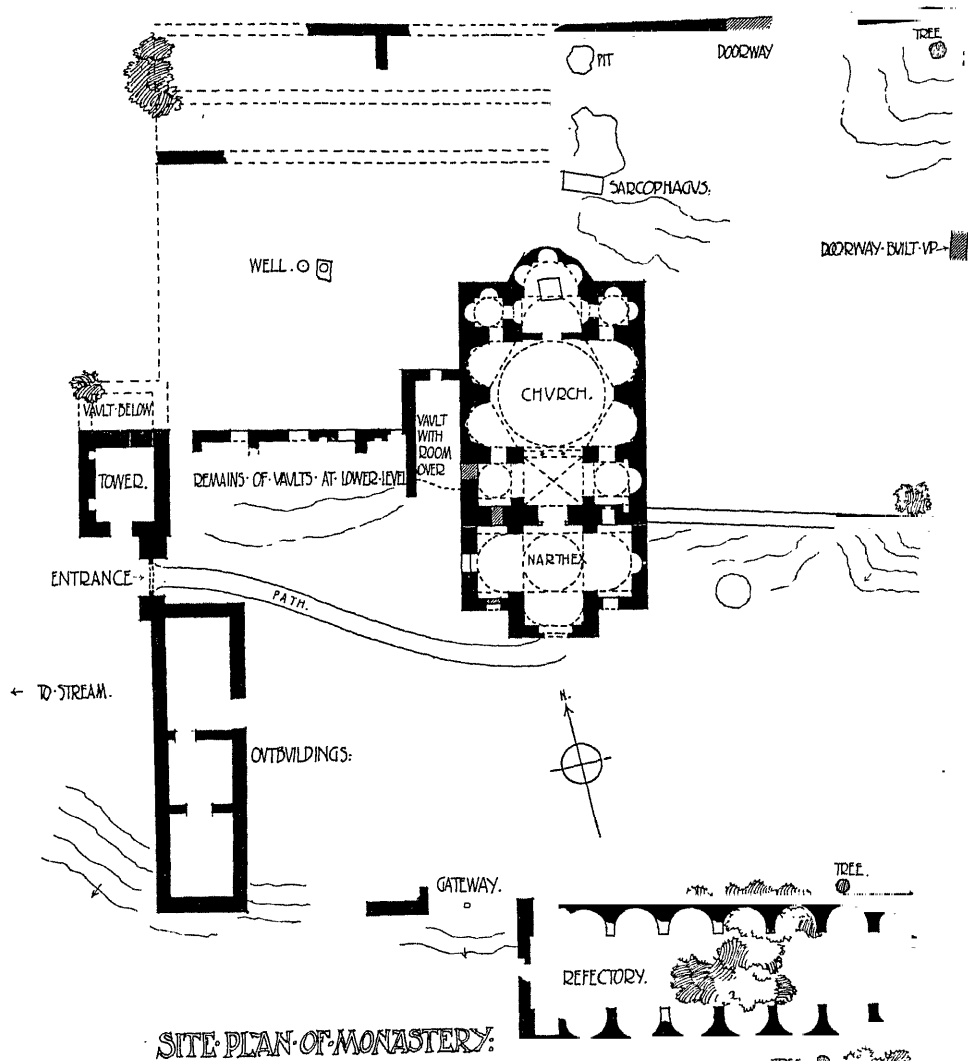
Mention must be made of the delightful situation of the church, built as it is on a high knoll overlooking woods of pine trees, while a perennial stream of beautiful clear drinking water—a most important acquisition to every monastery—runs in a little glade only a few yards away on the west side. Standing in the entrance doorway of the church and looking southwards on a clear day over the woods to the sea beyond, one obtains a view which in its way is probably unsurpassed in Attica.

HEATON COMYN.



CHURCH AT DAOU-MENDELI: GENERAL VIEWS.

CHVRCH OF THE RVINED MONASTERY
AT DAOV MENDELI ATTICA GREECE:



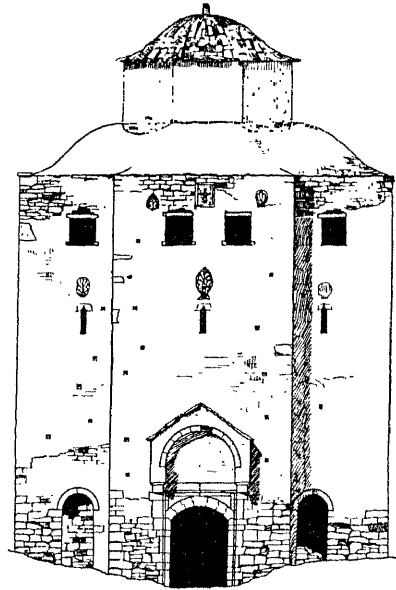
SCALE OF 0 5 10 20 30 METRES.

SCALE OF 0 5 10 20 30 FEET.

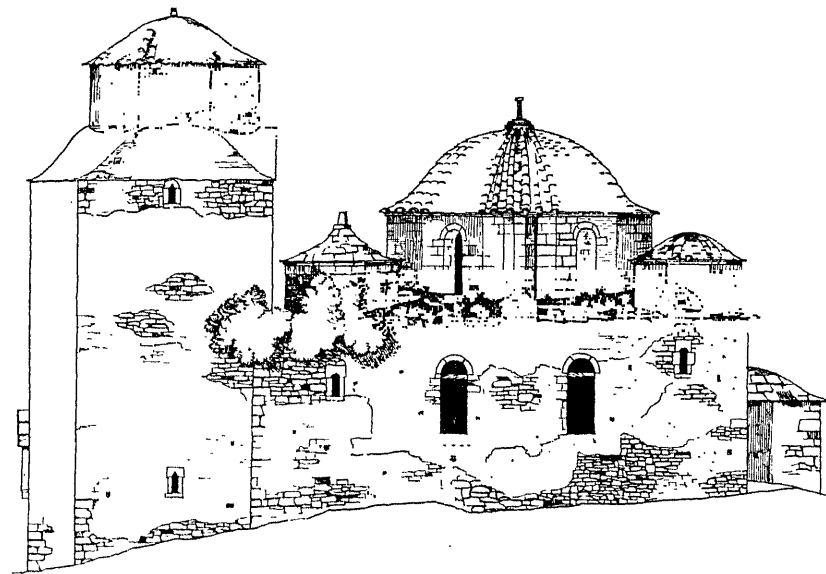
F. HASLUCK & HEATON QMSY.

CHURCH OF THE RUINED MONASTERY
AT DAOV·MENDEL·ATTICA·GREECE.

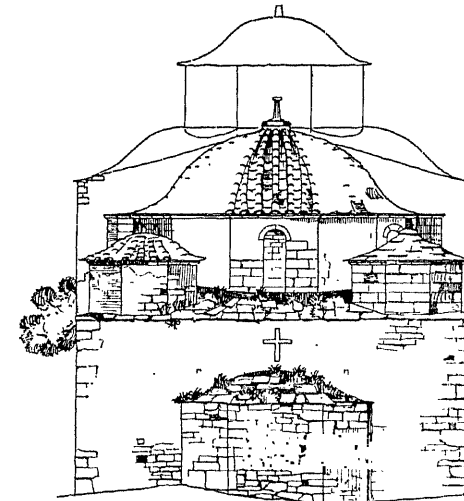
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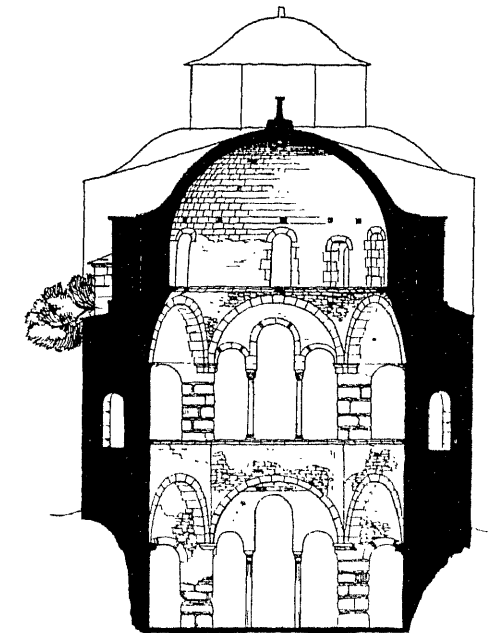
WEST·ELEVATION.



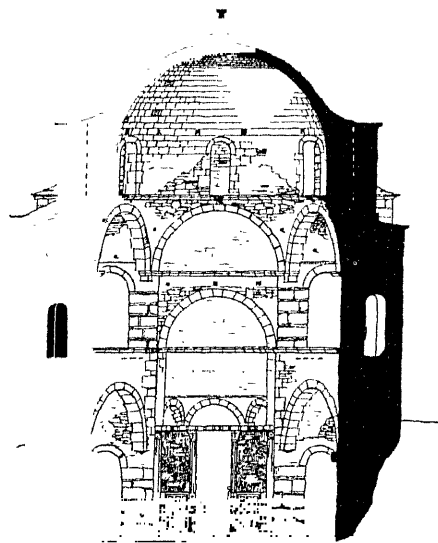
SOUTH·ELEVATION.



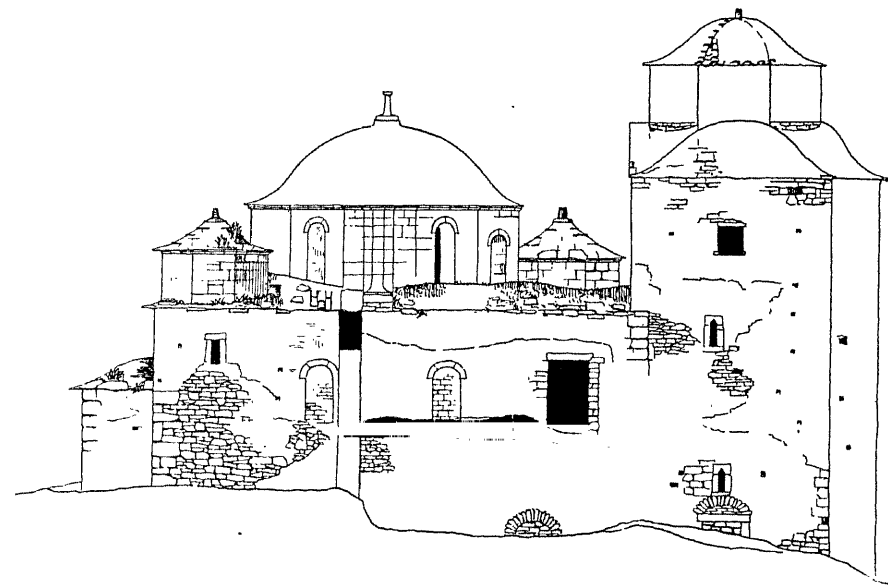
EAST·ELEVATION.



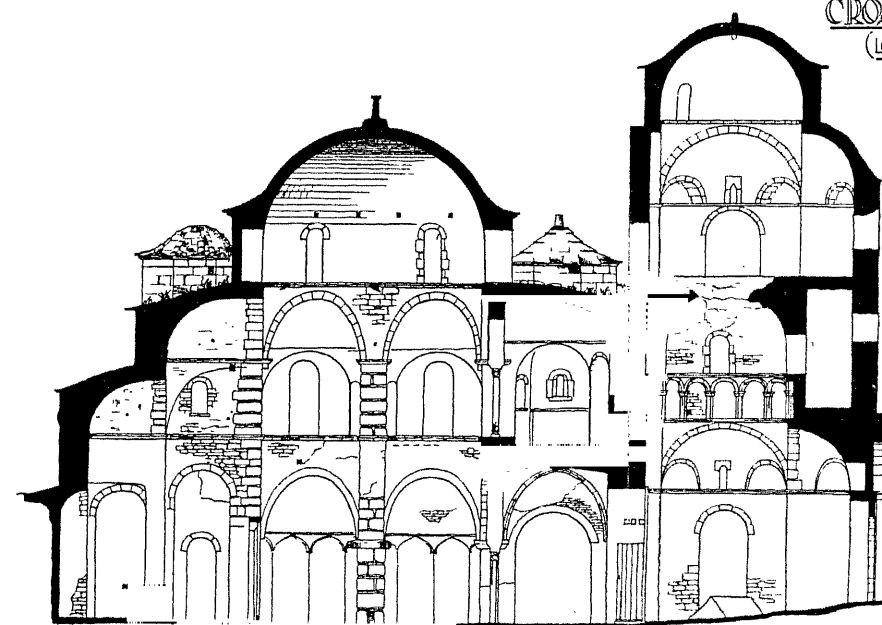
CROSS·SECTION.
(LOOKING WEST)



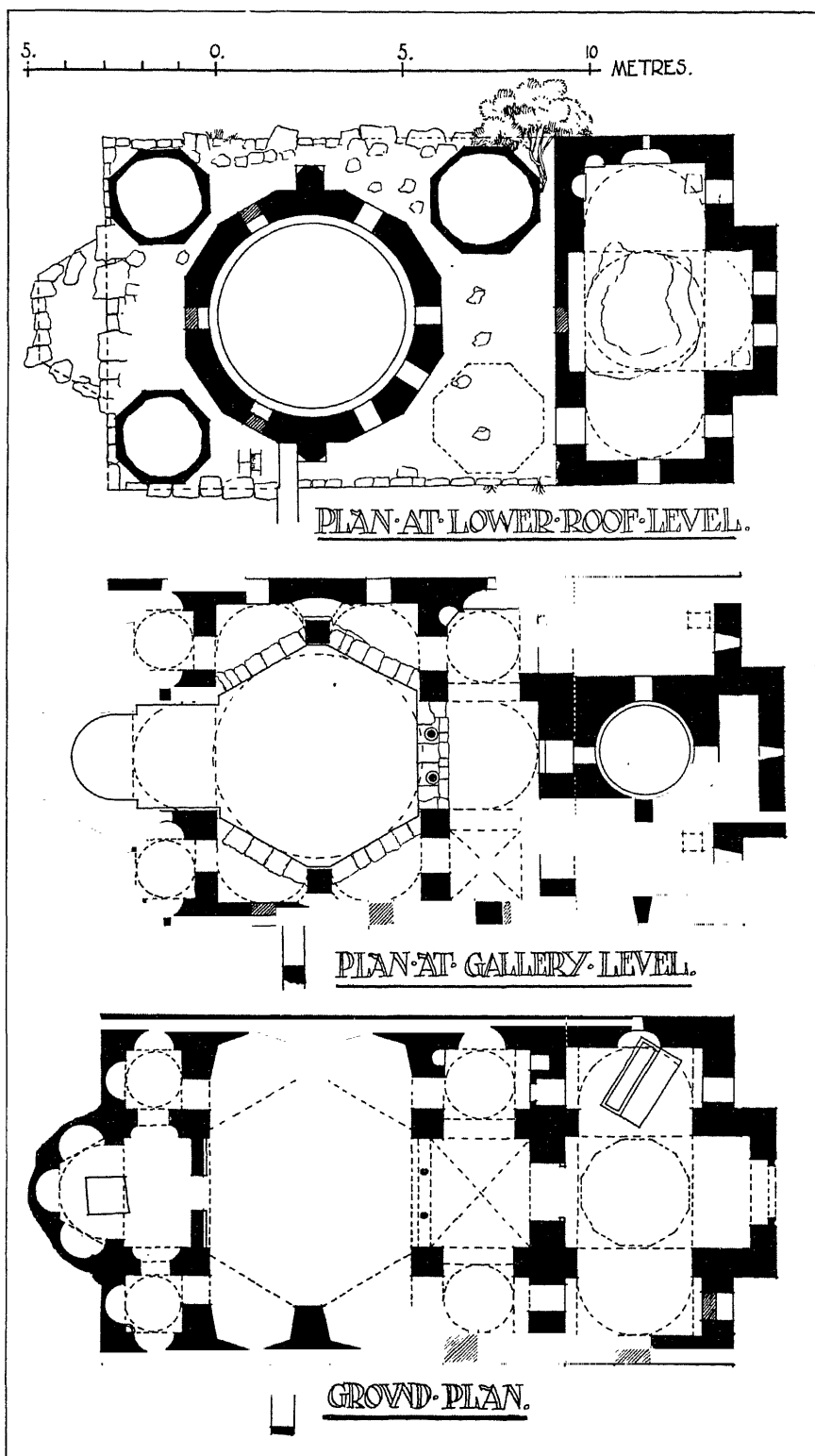
CROSS·SECTION.
(LOOKING EAST)



NORTH·ELEVATION.



LONGITVDINAL·SECTION.
(LOOKING SOUTH)



CHURCH AT DAOU-MENDELI : PLANS.

